

THE IBIS.

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XXIII.—*On the Ornithology of Central America.* Part III.
By PHILIP LUTLEY SCLATER and OSBERT SALVIN.

[Concluded from p. 138.]

Ordo II. ACCIPITRES.

Fam. I. VULTURIDÆ.

251. CATHARTES AURA (Linn.). (N. A.)

If Mr. Cassin's authority for the occurrence of *C. burrovianus* at Vera Cruz is good, that bird also doubtless occurs in Guatemala; but, as far as we know, it has not yet been observed. All the birds especially noticed by Salvin, presented the characters of the true *C. aura* of the U.S.

In this country this Vulture is not nearly so abundant as *C. atratus*. Leaving to that species all the duties of the scavenger, it frequents the more uncultivated and forest districts. A few may always be seen about the Lake of Dueñas.

252. CATHARTES ATRATUS (Bartram). (N. A.)

Except perhaps *Quiscalus macrurus*, this is the most familiar bird in Guatemala. Every town and village has its *Zopilotes*; and badly would the inhabitants exist were it not for these diligent scavengers. At night they usually retire to the forest, and in the early morning troop back to their posts in the streets and lanes, and about the tops of the houses and churches.

They build their nests in the forest, though, in Antigua Guatemala, it is said that they use the ruins of the old churches for that purpose.

253. GYPARCHUS PAPA (Linn.). (N. A.)

It is only on the coast-regions that the King Vulture is found; it does not extend its range into the central district. In the above localities it is frequently to be observed either soaring high in the air, and wheeling in circles during the heat of the day, or presiding over a putrid carcase, and driving off any presumptuous Black Vulture that may venture to approach within prescribed limits. Having eaten his fill, he sits in a tree hard by the carcase, sleeping and digesting his meal, while his late attendants fight and scramble for each disgusting morsel. The Spanish term for this bird is "el Rey Zopilote," exactly answering to our King Vulture.

Fam. II. FALCONIDÆ.

Subfam. POLYBORINÆ.

254. POLYBORUS THARUS (Molina): Baird's Report, p. 45. (N. A.)

This bird is universal in its distribution throughout the country, and appears equally abundant everywhere. At Dueñas it is a constant resident, and breeds in the surrounding hills.

The food of this species consists principally of the ticks of animals.

255. IBYCTER AMERICANUS (Bodd.): Pl. Enl. 417: *Falco aquilinus*, Gm.

In the Pacific coast-region this bird is found; and its extraordinary cry, well expressed by the word '*cacao*,' uttered with the first syllable reiterated several times, may not unfrequently be heard resounding through the dense tropical forest. It would appear to be confined to this region, since no examples have been as yet forwarded to this country through the instrumentality of Mr. Skinner or other hands. The species may be generally observed in pairs, seldom singly; but sometimes several occur together. The cry is made by the bird when sitting on a branch; and the tail is expanded with a jerk, on the utterance of each note.

Subfam. AQUILINÆ.

256. PANDION CAROLINENSIS (Gm.): Baird, Rep. p. 44. (N. A.)

Occurs abundantly on both the coast-regions; also particularly noticed about Belize, where it is said to breed.

257. HERPETOTHERES CACHINNANS (Linn.).

This species is not uncommon in the Atlantic coast-region, and about the village of Chimalapa it is even of frequent occurrence. Throughout the Pacific coast-region it would appear to be less numerous, as a single individual only was noticed near the hacienda 'La Grande.' It is known among the Spaniards by the name of the 'Guansi.'

258. SPIZAËTUS ORNATUS (Daud.).

Numerous examples of this fine bird have been transmitted by Mr. Skinner from the Vera Paz, procured in Cajabon and other localities.

259. SPIZAËTUS TYRANNUS (Max.): Temm. Pl. Col. 75.

Likewise transmitted by Mr. Skinner, and now in the Norwich Museum.

260. SPIZAËTUS MELANOLEUCUS (Vieill.): Temm. Pl. Col. 79.

One example of this bird is also in the Norwich Museum. Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

261. THRASAËTUS HARPYIA (Linn.).

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner from the Vera Paz. Many stories of the boldness of the Harpy, in its depredations on their pigs, are told by the Indians; but most of them with such evident exaggeration, that the truth is difficult to arrive at.

262. URUBITINGA ZONURA (Shaw). *Falco urubitinga*, Gm.: Selater, P. Z. S. 1858, p. 128.

This bird is found throughout the whole country, on the Pacific, at Dueñas, and in the Vera Paz, from which latter district examples have been forwarded by Mr. Skinner. It would appear, however, to be an inhabitant of the hotter, rather than the temperate region, as its occurrence in the central district is not frequent.

263. URUBITINGA ANTHRACINA (Nitzsch): Sclater, P. Z. S. 1858, p. 129.

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner. Two immature birds of this species were shot by Salvin at Punta Arenas, in the Gulf of Nicoya, on the Pacific coast of Costa Rica. The stomachs of both these birds contained fragments of small crustacea. Mr. Leyland obtained examples of this bird in the vicinity of Omoa.

264. URUBITINGA — ?

Several skins of a *Urubitinga* in an immature state of plumage have at different times been transmitted by Mr. Skinner. One of these, in the Norwich Museum, shows a few feathers indicating that the adult is of the usual dark colouring of this group. Until lately, Mr. Gurney referred it to the South American *U. schistacea*; but, on closer comparison, he now concludes that it differs specifically from that bird, and belongs to a species whose adult plumage is as yet unknown.

265. URUBITINGA UNICINCTA (Temm.): Pl. Col. 313. *Craxirex unicinctus*, Baird, Rep. p. 46. (N. A.)

In the Norwich Museum. Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

266. BUTEOGALLUS NIGRICOLLIS (Lath.): Strickl. Orn. Syn. p. 43.

About the forest-swamps of the low district in the neighbourhood of the village of Santana Mixtan, this species occurs. Here it is not uncommon, and may be seen sitting on a dead stump or branch of a tree, uttering occasionally its harsh monotonous cry. From the stomach of one shot in the above locality were taken the scales of some species of fish, which, with the strong smell of the claws, left no doubt as to the nature of its food.

Subfam. BUTEONINÆ.

267. BUTEO INSIGNATUS, Cassin, B. of Cal. pp. 102 et 198, pl. 31. (N. A.)

We have Mr. Gurney's authority for ascribing a single specimen shot by Salvin at Dueñas to this curious species. It appears to be rare in that district as elsewhere, as no others were observed, and none of the collections forwarded by Mr. Skinner have contained examples.

268. *BUTEO BOREALIS* (Gm.). (N. A.)

This species seems to be generally and plentifully distributed; and numerous examples in all stages of plumage, from the young to the adult, have been transmitted by Mr. Skinner. It occurs also at Dueñas.

269. *BUTEO HARLANI* (Aud.)? (N. A.)

A Buzzard, which Salvin refers to this species, was seen by him at Dueñas, but is by no means common. See Mr. Gurney's views on this bird in P. Z. S. 1857, p. 210.

270. *BUTEO PENNSYLVANICUS* (Wils.). (N. A.)

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

271. *BUTEO ZONOCERCUS*, Scater, P. Z. S. 1858, p. 130.

The only example known of this *Buteo* was transmitted from Guatemala by Mr. Skinner, and is now in the Norwich Museum.

272. *BUTEO ALBONOTATUS*, Kaup, Isis, 1847, p. 399.

The southern slope of the Cordillera appears to be the true habitat of this species, but even here it cannot be said to be common. Like many of its class, it is a feeder on beetles and locusts.

273. *BUTEO GHIESBREGHTII*, Du Bus, Esq. Orn. pl. 1.

This magnificent species occurs not unfrequently throughout the Pacific coast-region, where it is well known to the natives. It appears to be confined to that district, as no examples have been procured by the many collectors that have traversed the corresponding region on the Atlantic.

274. *ASTURINA NITIDA* (Lath.): Temm. Pl. Col. 87 et 294.

Though abundant in the hot country on both coast-regions of the Republic of Guatemala, this bird does not occur in the temperate region. Its food consists of Lizards; and, as appears to be the case with all Hawks selecting such food, the flesh is very rank.

275. *ASTURINA MAGNIROSTRIS* (Gm.): Pl. Enl. 464.

Like the last, this bird is confined in its range to the hot coast regions, where it is abundant. Its food comprises small reptiles, centipedes and locusts.

276. *ASTURINA BRACHYURA* (Vieill.). *Buteo brachyurus*, Vieill. Nouv. Dict. iv. p. 477; Pucheran, R. Z. 1850, p. 86. *Asturina albifrons*, Kaup, Isis, 1847, p. 200, et Contr. Orn. 1850, p. 67.

One specimen of this fine species, transmitted by Mr. Skinner, is now in the Norwich Museum.

Subfam. ACCIPITRINÆ.

277. *GERANOSPIZA CÆRULESCENS* (Vieill.). *Sparvius cærulescens*, Vieill. Nouv. Dict. x. 318. *Falco gracilis* et *Falco hemidactylus*, Temm. Pl. Col. 91 et 3. *Ischnosceles niger*, Du Bus, Esq. Orn. pl. 16.

The best authorities now seem to be agreed that there is only one species of this form. As that occurs in Southern Mexico as well as in South America, there can be no doubt of its also being found in Guatemala.

278. *MICRASTUR GILVICOLLIS* (Vieill.). *Sparvius gilvicollis*, Vieill. *Micrastur concentricus*, auct.

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

279. *MICRASTUR RUFICOLLIS* (Vieill.). *Sparvius ruficollis*, Vieill. *Falco xanthothorax*, Temm. Pl. Col. 92.

A skin of this bird received from Mr. Skinner is in Salvin's collection.

280. *MICRASTUR SEMITORQUATUS* (Vieill.). *Sparvius semitorquatus*, Vieill. *Falco brachypterus*, Temm. Pl. Col. 116, 141. *Falco percontator*, Cabot, Boston Journ. iv. 462.

Examples of this species have been transmitted by Mr. Skinner. Dr. Cabot observed it in Yucatan.

281. *ACCIPITER FUSCUS* (Gm.). (N. A.)

This species occurs rarely in the Pacific coast-region. Examples also have been transmitted from Vera Paz.

282. *ACCIPITER ERYTHROCNEMIS*, Kaup, Jard. Contr. Orn. 1850, p. 64.

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner. *Nisus chionogaster*, Kaup (P. Z. S. 1851, p. 41), from Coban, is probably nothing more than this species.

Subfam. FALCONINÆ.

283. *FALCO ANATUM*, Bp. (N. A.)

A single example of this bird, in an immature state of plumage, was shot at Dueñas in February, 1858.

284. *HYPOTRIORCHIS FEMORALIS* (Temm.). *Falco femoralis*, Temm. Pl. Col. 121 et 343.

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

285. *HYPOTRIORCHIS RUFIGULARIS* (Daud.): Strickl. Orn. Syn. p. 88.

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

286. *TINNUNCULUS SPARVERIUS* (Linn.). (N. A.)

This is a very abundant species over the whole republic of Guatemala; but at Dueñas it is migratory, being a visitant there only during the winter months. The name applied to this species by the Spaniards is '*Klis-klis*.'

287. *HARPAGUS BIDENTATUS* (Lath.): Temm. Pl. Col. 38 et 228.

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

Subfam. MILVINÆ.

288. *CYMINDIS CAYENNENSIS* (Gm.).

The Norwich Museum contains an example of this species from Honduras. Mr. Leyland met with it in the S. Pedro Mountains.

289. *CYMINDIS UNCINATUS* (Temm.), Pl. Col. 103, 104 et 115.

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

290. *ROSTRHAMUS SOCIABILIS* (Vieill.).

Salvin ascribes the immense flights of hawks seen by him in the month of March in the Pacific coast-region, migrating in a north-westerly direction, to this species. The bird is well known to the Spaniards under the name of the '*Asacuani*;' and the term has become proverbial for a person who is constantly wandering from place to place. Mr. Leyland procured a single specimen of this bird near the Lake of Peten.

291. *ELANUS LEUCURUS* (Vieill.). (N. A.)

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

292. *ICTINIA PLUMBEA* (Vieill.). (N. A.)

The Norwich Museum contains an example of this species from Honduras.

293. *ELANOIDES FURCATUS* (Vieill.). (N. A.)

Examples from the neighbourhood of Cajabon have recently been forwarded by Mr. Skinner; one of these is in the immature plumage, and shows a white edging to the feathers of the wing-coverts. If accounts are correct, this bird is more numerous at Belize, where it is also said to breed.

Subfam. CIRCINÆ.

294. *CIRCUS HUDSONICUS* (Linn.). (N. A.)

This is a migratory species at Dueñas, and probably throughout the whole country. During the winter months two or three females, or immature birds, generally frequented the Lake, the adult males being much less commonly seen. It occurs in the Pacific coast-region; and examples have also been transmitted from the Vera Paz.

Fam. III. STRIGIDÆ.

295. *GLAUCIDIUM INFUSCATUM* (Temm.). *Strix passerinoides*, Temm. Pl. Col. 344.

A single example of this little Owl was shot by Salvin near the village of Laguna, one day's journey from Guatemala. This species has frequently been included in the collections transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

296. *GLAUCIDIUM JARDINII*, Bp. *Phalænopsis jardinii*, Bp. Compt. Rend. xli. 654 (?).

The Norwich Museum contains an Owl, transmitted by Mr. Skinner, which seems to belong to this species.

297. *SCOPS M'CALLII*, Cassin, Birds of Californ. p. 180 (?).

A specimen received from Mr. Skinner, in the Norwich Museum, seems to agree very well with the example of this bird from Mexico, as referred to in P. Z. S. 1858, p. 296.

298. *Scops* — ?

Though a skin from Cajabon seems to present some features that might entitle it to be considered as a distinct species, yet so much obscurity exists with respect to these Owls, that to give new names tends only to increase the confusion. The species to which it is most nearly allied are *Scops usta*, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1858, p. 132, and *S. brasiliensis*, from the former of which it differs in having the ears less conspicuous, and in wanting the deep rufous tinge that pervades the whole plumage of that bird. It also has a light marking over the eye which is wanting in *S. usta*. From the latter it differs in its general tone of colouring, the breast being lighter and the back richer and more rufous. More examples will be necessary, to trace the changes of its plumage, before entering upon its claims to be held as a really distinct species.

299. *LOPHOSTRIX STRICKLANDI*, Sclat. et Salv. *Scops cristata*, Daud., var., Strickl., Contr. Orn. 1848, p. 60, pl. 10.

The late Mr. Strickland has, in his usual accurate manner, pointed out the characters which distinguish this Central American bird from its prototype of Cayenne. He was acquainted only with one example, from which his figure was taken. Mr. Skinner having lately transmitted three examples of this bird from the Vera Paz, all of which agree in the distinctions given by Mr. Strickland, we cannot avoid considering it as entitled to specific rank. The most obvious differences are the absence of the white on the forehead, the blackish ear-coverts, and the much more distinct markings on the wings in the present bird.

300. *SYRNIUM NEBULOSUM* (Forster): Baird's Rep. p. 56. (N. A.)

The Norwich Museum contains examples of this Owl transmitted by Mr. Skinner from Cajabon, where it appears to breed, as one of the specimens is in the downy plumage of the young bird.

301. *SYRNIUM VIRGATUM*, Cassin, P. Z. S. 1856, p. 285.

Numerous examples of this species have been transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

302. *SYRNIUM PERSPICILLATUM* (Lath.), Strickl. Orn. Syn. p. 193.

The hotel-keeper at Escuintla had in June last a bird in the immature plumage of this species; and the collection of Don Vicente Constancia in Antigua Guatemala contains a similar one.

303. *STRIX PRATINCOLA*, Bp., Strickl. Orn. Syn. p. 179. (N.A.)
Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

Ordo III. COLUMBÆ.

Fam. COLUMBIDÆ.

304. *COLUMBA RUFINA*, Temm. Fig. t. 24; Bp. Consp. ii. p. 52.

Three or four Pigeons were seen on the banks in the trees, when ascending the Rio Dulce in the middle of December. One only was secured, which proved to be a female of this species in very fine plumage. We are not aware that its occurrence so far north has been previously noticed.

305. *COLUMBA LEUCOCEPHALA*, Linn.

Inhabits the Keys, or small islands, on the coast of Honduras (Leyland).

306. *COLUMBA SPECIOSA*, Gm.

Near Lake Peten (Leyland).

307. *LEPTOPTILA ALBIFRONS*, Bp. Consp. ii. p. 74. *Peristera brachyptera*, Gray, MS.

This is a very abundant species at Dueñas, where it is seen under or in the lower parts of the trees. It occurs generally in pairs, and is resident all the year.

308. *PERISTERA CINEREA* (Temm.).

Omoa (Leyland).

309. *ZENAIDURA CAROLINENSIS* (Linn.): Bp. Consp. ii. p. 84. (N. A.)

Also very abundant about Dueñas, but inhabits the open districts. It usually congregates in flocks, and is resident.

310. SCARDAFELLA INCA, Bp.

Found in flocks with *Chamæpelis rufipennis*, near S. Pedro and Peten, Honduras (Leyland).

311. ZENAIDA LEUCOPTERA (Linn.): Bp. Consp. p. 81. (N. A.)

Omoa (Leyland). One of the common Doves about Dueñas in April and May. It is found on the ground in the open savannahs.

312. CHAMÆPELIA RUFIPENNIS, Bp. Consp. ii. p. 359: P. Z. S. 1858, p. 359.

Obtained by Capt. Taylor at Comayagua, Honduras.

313. CHAMÆPELIA PASSERINA (Linn.).

This is one of the most familiar birds of the central region, where it is the only small Ground-dove found. In the coast-regions its place is supplied by two other species at least. At Dueñas it is abundant, residing all the year, and breeding in the cochineal-plantations, where it deposits its eggs, two in number, on the ground under the rows of 'Nopal.'

The Spanish name for this species is 'Tortolita.'

Ordo V. GALLINÆ.

Fam. I. CRACIDÆ.

Subfam. CRACINÆ.

314. CRAX ALECTOR, Linn.

In the forests of both coast-regions this species occurs, though somewhat sparingly. It is usually seen in the early morning, or in the evening, perched on a branch of a tree, where it rests, looking at a passer-by with a vacant rather than an alarmed expression. When thus found, a sportsman may approach in the most open manner to within gun-shot. To the Spaniards it is known as the '*Pahuil*,' and to the mahogany-cutters of Belize as the '*Curassow*.'

Subfam. PENELOPINÆ.

315. PENELOPE PURPURASCENS, Wagler.

This bird frequents the same localities as *Crax alector*; and the habits of the two closely resemble each other; but *P. purpu-*

rascens is much more numerous, and occurs abundantly in many parts. It is said to build in trees. The Spanish name is '*Pavo*,' which is translated as '*Turkey*' by some, and '*Peacock*' by other writers on Central America.

316. *PENELOPE NIGRA*, Fraser, P. Z. S. 1850, p. 246, pl. xxix. In the British Museum. Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

317. *ORTALIDA VETULA* (Wagler). *Penelope vetula*, Wagl. Isis, 1830, p. 1112; Moore in P. Z. S. 1859, p. 62.

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner. In Sir William Jardine's collection. Birds of this genus are common in both the coast-regions, and known by the name of '*Chacha*.' They inhabit the forests, and are always seen on the trees.

318. *ORTALIDA LEUCOGASTRA* (Gould). *Penelope albiventer*, Less. Rev. Zool. 1842, p. 174 (nec Wagl.). *Penelope leucogastra*, Gould, P. Z. S. 1843, p. 105; Gould, Voy. Sulphur, Zool. p. 48, pl. xxxi.

This Guan is very abundant in the Pacific coast-region, where, in the neighbourhood of the more remote and smaller villages, the woods in the early morning resound with its loud continued cries. Like *Penelope purpurascens*, it is usually seen in trees, and shows little symptom of alarm on one approaching. The time of breeding seems to extend over some period, as young birds and fresh eggs were observed simultaneously in the month of March. The former appear to run almost immediately on becoming free from the shell, and, clinging to the branches of the underwood, are nimble in eluding capture. The nest is usually placed in a low bush, and is composed entirely of small twigs. The eggs, two in number, are of rough texture, and in colour pure creamy-white; they measure, axis 1·25 in., diam. 1·5 in.

Subfam. OREOPHASIDINÆ.

319. *OREOPHASIS DERBIANUS*, Gray & Mitch. Gen. of Birds, pl. 121: *O. fronticornis*, V. d. Hoeven.

This bird, one of the most curious as well as the most interesting in Central America, is extremely rare, and its range, as far as is at present known, circumscribed within very narrow limits. The single volcanic peak '*el Volcan de Fuego*' is generally said

to be its sole "habitat," though there is strong reason to believe that the specimens procured by Mr. Skinner were obtained from the neighbouring mountain, 'el Volcan de Agua.' From careful inquiries made at Dueñas of Indians who were acquainted with the bird, it would appear that the belt of forest which encircles each of these volcanos between the elevations of 7000 and 11,000 feet above the sea-level is its natural home, where it is constantly resident. The characteristic tree of this forest-region is the celebrated Hand-plant of the Mexicans (*Chiostemon platanoïdes*)—'la Mano del Mico' (the Monkey's Hand) of the Spaniards, which there grows luxuriantly. Whether or not the *Oreophasis* occurs in the volcanos of Atitlan and the Altos, remains yet to be investigated; but, as all these and also the smaller cone of Pacaya present corresponding physical features to those of Agua and Fuego, it is not at all improbable that it may also be found in these mountains.

There appears to be no distinctive name for this bird; among the natives, however, it is known as the Turkey with the red head ('el Pavo con la cabeza colorada').

Fam. II. PHASIANIDÆ.

320. MELEAGRIS OCELLATA, Temm. Pl. Col. 112.

This Turkey seems entirely confined in its range to the country included between the base of the Great Cordillera and the Atlantic, of which the promontory of Yucatan occupies the greater portion. From all accounts, the little-known district, of which the Lake of Peten forms the chief feature, is its headquarters; and there it would appear to be of not unfrequent occurrence. It seems almost unknown to the natives of the Republic of Guatemala; but the inhabitants of Belize, who have connection with the mahogany-cuttings, have more or less information respecting it. The Spanish name is 'Pavo real,' or, more properly, 'Pavo real del monte' (Wild Turkey).

Fam. III. PERDICIDÆ.

321. ORTYX NIGRIGULARIS, Gould, Mon. Odont. pl. 4.

Yucatan (Cabot): pine-ridges of Belize (Leyland).

322. *ORTYX LEYLANDI*, Moore, P. Z. S. 1859, p. 62.
Honduras between Omoa and Comayagua (Leyland).
323. *CYRTONYX OCELLATUS*, Gould, Mon. Odont. pl. 8.
Guatemala (Gould).
324. *DENDRORTYX LEUCOPHRYS*, Gould, Mon. Odont. pl. 21.
Received direct from Coban (Gould).
325. *ODONTOPHORUS GUTTATUS*, Gould, Mon. Odont. pl. 28.
Obtained by Mr. Dyson in the Coban palm-ridges, and in Yucatan.

Fam. IV. TINAMIDÆ.

326. *TINAMUS MAJOR*, Gm. ? : Moore, P. Z. S. 1859, p. 63.
Belize and Omoa (Leyland).
327. *TINAMUS CINNAMOMEUS* (Less.) : R. Z. 1842, p. 210.
Vicinity of La Union, S. Salvador (Lesson).

Ordo VI. GRALLÆ.

Fam. I. ARDEIDÆ.

328. *GARZETTA CANDIDISSIMA* (Gm.) : Baird, Rep. p. 665.
(N. A.)
Common on the Atlantic coast, and sometimes visits the Lake of Dueñas. Generally seen in companies.
329. *HERODIAS EGRETTE* (Gm.) : Baird, Rep. p. 666. (N. A.)
Also common, but more solitary in its habits, both on the Pacific and Atlantic coasts.
330. *ARDEA HERODIAS* (Linn.). (N. A.)
Occurs at Dueñas; seen fishing in the river Guacalate.
331. *FLORIDA CÆRULEA* (Linn.) : Baird, Rep. p. 671; P. Z. S. 1859, p. 63. (N. A.)
Specimens transmitted by Mr. Skinner are labelled "Coban."
Leyland found it common near Omoa.
332. *TIGRISOMA TIGRINUM* (Gm.).
Obtained at Tigré Island, on the Pacific coast of Honduras, by Mr. G. C. Taylor.

333. *BUTORIDES VIRESCENS* (Linn.). (N. A.)

Quite common on all the rivers on the coast among the mangrove swamps.

334. *NYCTICORAX GARDENI* (Gm.). (N. A.)

A young bird of this species has been transmitted by Mr. Skinner. Omoa and Peten (Leyland).

Fam. II. *ARAMIDÆ*.

335. *ARAMUS HOLOSTICTUS* (Cab.), Journ. f. Orn. 1856, p. 426. *A. scolopaceus*?, Moore, P. Z. S. 1859, p. 64. Belize and Omoa (Leyland).

Fam. III. *CANCROMIDÆ*.336. *CANCROMA COCHLEARIA*, Linn.

Occurs in the forest-swamps on the Pacific coast not uncommonly. Skins have also been transmitted by Mr. Skinner from the Atlantic coast-region.

Fam. IV. *EURYPYGIDÆ*.337. *EURYPYGA HELIAS* (Pall.).

Mr. Skinner has transmitted skins of this bird, which seem quite identical with S. American specimens.

Fam. V. *TANTALIDÆ*.338. *TANTALUS LOCULATOR*, Linn. (N. A.)

This bird is not uncommonly seen about the large rivers in the forests of the Pacific coast-region. It is known by the Spanish name '*Acatras*.'

Fam. VI. *CHARADRIIDÆ*.339. *CHARADRIUS VIRGINICUS*, Bork. (N. A.)

About the second week in April, a few of these birds made their appearance at Dueñas in the open pasture land. They were always found in company with a flock of Bartram's Sand-piper.

340. *ÆGIALITIS VOCIFERUS* (Linn.). (N. A.)

During the winter months a flock of these Plovers frequent

the open land near Dueñas, sometimes feeding in the Cochineal plantations between the rows of Nopal. Omoa (Leyland).

341. *HOPLOPTERUS CAYANUS* (Lath.) : Moore in P. Z. S. 1859, p. 63.

Honduras (Leyland).

Fam. VII. *HÆMATOPODIDÆ*.

342. *HÆMATOPUS PALLIATUS*, Temm. (N. A.)

Oyster-catchers were seen at the mouth of the Nagualate on the Pacific, probably referable to this species.

Fam. VIII. *RECURVIROSTRIDÆ*.

343. *HIMANTOPUS NIGRICOLLIS*, Vieill. (N. A.)

A specimen of this bird is in the collection of Don Vicente Constanica of La Antigua Guatemala ; procured near the modern city.

Fam. IX. *SCOLOPACIDÆ*.

344. *GALLINAGO** — ? —

This seems to be the common Snipe of Guatemala, and, like the rest of its genus, frequents the swampy spots, and especially the pools formed during the rainy season. It is very abundant in the months of October and November about the plateau on which the city of Guatemala stands. At Dueñas it occurs in considerable numbers in February and March, about the narrow belt of swampy land that surrounds the lake on nearly all sides. When put up, they seldom fly far, but alight again 50 or 100 yards off. They are by no means shy, but admit of one approaching to within easy shooting-distance before taking wing.

On excellent authority it is stated that in this same locality there occurs, but very rarely, a dark-coloured Snipe resembling the present bird in all respects but colour. Can this be the *G. sabini* of this species ?

345. *GALLINAGO WILSONI*, Bp. : Moore, P. Z. S. 1859, p. 64. (N. A.)

Common at Omoa (Leyland).

* We have not yet been able to identify this Snipe, which appears certainly distinct from *G. wilsoni*.

346. *TRINGA MACULATA*, Vieill. : Baird's Rep. p. 720. (N. A.)

About the beginning of April, and towards the end of the dry season, a great part of the stream is diverted from the river Guacalate, and thrown on the open pasture-land near Dueñas. During this period numbers of *Scolopacidae* frequent the inundated part, of which *Tringa maculata* is the most abundant. At this season this bird, taking its food from fresh water, proves excellent eating.

347. *TRINGA WILSONII*, Nuttall : Baird's Rep. p. 721. (N. A.)

About the mouth of the river Nagualate, on the shore of the Pacific, this bird occurs in some numbers in the month of March.

348. *CALIDRIS ARENARIA* (Linn.). (N. A.)

Like the last, occurs on the Pacific, where it is abundant in some parts.

349. *EREUNETES PETRIFICATUS*, Ill. *Tringa semipalmata*, Wils. : Baird's Rep. p. 724. (N. A.)

A single bird of this species was shot near Dueñas in the month of April, from amongst a flock of *Tringa pectoralis*.

350. *MICROPALAMA HIMANTOPUS* (Bp.) : Baird's Rep. p. 726. (N. A.)

One individual, the only one seen, was shot, like the last, from amongst a flock of *Tringa pectoralis* in April.

351. *GAMBETTA MELANOLEUCA* (Gm.) : Baird's Rep. p. 731. (N. A.)

This species seems more solitary in its habits than many of the other Sandpipers. Seldom more than one individual is seen at once; it also prefers the lake-sides to the marshy resort of the other species.

352. *GAMBETTA FLAVIPES* (Gm.) : Baird's Rep. p. 732. (N. A.)

A small flock of these birds used to be in company with the *Tringa pectoralis* at Dueñas during the early part of the month of April.

353. *RHYACOPHILUS SOLITARIUS* (Wils.) : Baird's Rep. p. 733. (N. A.)

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner.

354. *TRINGOIDES MACULARIUS* (Linn.): Baird's Rep. p. 735. (N. A.)

About most of the rivers this species is to be met with during the winter months; but they are principally in the unspotted, immature state of plumage. Their range is wide, and includes both the table-land and the coast country.

355. *LIMOSA FEDOA* (Linn.): Baird's Rep. p. 740; P. Z. S. 1859, p. 64. (N. A.)

Common at Belize, according to Leyland.

356. *ACTITURUS BARTRAMIUS* (Wils.): Baird's Rep. p. 737. (N. A.)

A flock consisting of about eighteen or twenty members arrive about the beginning of April at Dueñas. There seeking the dry open savannahs rather than the marshy pools, they fully justify the appellation of the Field-Plover. To the *Charadriidae* their actions and habits closely assimilate them.

Fam. X. RALLIDÆ.

Subfam. RALLINÆ.

357. *PORZANA CAROLINA* (Linn.): Baird, Rep. p. 749. (N. A.)

This Rail is the only one occurring about the Lake of Dueñas, where it would appear to be migratory, leaving that district on the approach of summer.

Mr. Skinner has also transmitted specimens from the Vera Paz.

358. *CORETHRURA CAYENNENSIS*, Gm. (?): Moore, P. Z. S. 1859, p. 64.

Omoa (Leyland).

359. *ARAMIDES CAYENNENSIS* (Gm.): Moore, P. Z. S. 1859, p. 64.

Omoa; not common (Leyland).

Subfam. FULICINÆ.

360. *PORPHYRIO MARTINICA*, Linn.: Moore, P. Z. S. 1859, p. 64; Baird, Rep. p. 753. (N. A.)

Lagoons near Peten (Leyland).

361. *FULICA AMERICANA* (Gm.): Baird, Rep. p. 751. (N. A.)

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner. Coots are abundant on the

Lake of Dueñas ; but, as specimens have not been collected, they cannot be referred with certainty to this species.

Subfam. PARRINÆ.

362. *PARRA GYMNOSTOMA*, Wagler. *Parra cordifera*, Less. : Des Murs, Icon. Orn. pl. 42.

Very common at Belize and Peten ; less so at Omoa (Leyland). Observed by Salvin in the Pacific coast-region near Santana Mixtan, and obtained by Capt. C. L. Wyke on the Lake of Amatitlan in the central region.

Ordo VII. ANSERES.

Fam. I. ANATIDÆ.

363. *DENDROCYGNA AUTUMNALIS* (Linn.) : Baird, Rep. p. 770. (N. A.)

Shot by Mr. G. C. Taylor on the Lake of Yojoa, Honduras.

364. *DAFILA ACUTA* (Linn.) : Baird, Rep. p. 776. (N. A.)

Seen at Belize in December, and common, during the winter, on the Lake of Dueñas. It departs northward in March.

365. *QUERQUEDULA CAROLINENSIS* (Gm.) : Baird, Rep. p. 777. (N. A.)

Aloor River, Honduras (Leyland).

366. *QUERQUEDULA DISCORS* (Linn.) : Baird, Rep. p. 779. (N. A.)

Common in winter on the Lake of Dueñas, but disappears in March. Also seen at Santana Mixtan, Pacific coast-region.

367. *SPATULA CLYPEATA* (Linn.) : Baird, Rep. p. 781. (N. A.)

Like the two preceding, inhabits the Lake of Dueñas during the winter, and departs towards the end of March.

368. *MARECA AMERICANA* (Gm.) : Baird, Rep. p. 783. (N. A.)

Common on the Lake of Atitlan, where it was seen in May 1858, and also observed near the village of Laguna, about a day's journey from Guatemala.

369. *FULIGULA AFFINIS*, Eyton : Baird, Rep. p. 791. (N. A.)

Excessively abundant on the Lake of Dueñas in the winter

months, and seen on the Lake Atitlan as late as the month of May.

370. *CAIRINA MOSCHATA* (Linn.).

All the domestic varieties in Central America seem to derive their origin from this species. It is found abundantly on both coasts, frequenting the forest swamps. At Belize it is a well-known bird, as the nature of that district is well adapted to its habits. In the Pacific coast-region it is more local, as the swamps are much more limited, and are of comparatively small extent. The bird is more frequently seen sitting on a branch of a tree than in any other position. During the day-time it remains in the forest; but towards evening it seeks the fields of maize, and many may be seen sitting about the surrounding trees, the flock at a distance looking like a troop of Black Vultures (*Cathartes atratus*). Though shy and by no means easy of approach, a sportsman has no difficulty in obtaining two or three birds between sun-down and dark, by hiding up amongst the trees and shooting as the birds fly round over head. The flesh is excellent and very tender. This bird is said to breed in December.

371. *ERISMATURA RUBIDA* (Wils.): Baird, Rep. p. 811. (N.A.)

On the Lake of Dueñas this is the only resident species of Duck. Its numbers diminish during the period of the spring migration, the immature birds at that time probably seeking other quarters. It is a bird more easily procured than any of the other ducks frequenting the lake, as its powers of flight render its escape less easy. Not but that it flies as well as any other when once fairly started; but it finds difficulty in rising from off the water, so much so, that, by sailing down wind towards a bird, it usually admits of approach to within easy shooting-distance. Sometimes, however, it seeks safety by diving; and when such is the case, its powers in this respect are so great that escape is almost certain to ensue. It builds in May, amongst the reeds on the margin of the lake, making a nest of the dead flag with a little down. The eggs are, as might be expected, by analogy with those of the European *Erismatura mersa*, rough in texture, but perhaps hardly in such a degree as

the eggs of that species. They are of a dirty creamy-white colour, and measure, axis 2 inches $4\frac{1}{2}$ lines, diam. 1 inch 10 lines; but are sometimes rather more elongated, as others measure, axis 2 inches 7 lines, diam. 1 inch $9\frac{1}{2}$ lines.

Fam. II. LARIDÆ.

372. CHROICOCEPHALUS ATRICILLA (Linn.): Baird's Rep. p. 850. (N. A.)

Common about Belize, and said to breed in the Keys along the coast.

373. ANOUS STOLIDUS (Linn.): Baird, Rep. p. 864. (N. A.)
Observed on the Pacific coast.

Fam. III. PELECANIDÆ.

374. PELECANUS ERYTHROBRYNCHUS (Gm.): Baird, Rep. p. 868. (N. A.)

Transmitted by Mr. Skinner, having been obtained on the Pacific coast.

375. PELECANUS FUSCUS (Linn.): Baird, Rep. p. 870. (N. A.)
Seen on the Atlantic coast, and found breeding by Mr. G. C. Taylor in the Bay of Fonseca, on the Pacific.

376. PHALACROCORAX MEXICANUS (Brandt): Baird, Rep. p. 879. (N. A.)
Lake of Peten (Leyland).

377. SULA FIBER (Linn.): Baird, Rep. p. 872. (N. A.)
One of these birds came on board the steamer, off the coast of San Salvador.

Fam. IV. PLOTIDÆ.

378. PLOTUS ANHINGA, Linn.: Baird, Rep. p. 883. (N. A.)
Found at Lake Peten, by Leyland.

Fam. V. TACHYPETIDÆ.

379. TACHYPETES AQUILA (Linn.): Baird, Rep. p. 873. (N. A.)
Observed on both coasts. Mr. G. C. Taylor obtained eggs of this bird in the Bay of Fonseca in 1858. See P. Z. S. 1858, p. 318, and 'Ibis,' No. II. (antea, p. 150).

Fam. VI. COLYMBIDÆ.

380. *PODILYMBUS PODICEPS* (Linn.). (N. A.)

This is a resident species at Dueñas. It breeds in May, making a nest amongst the reeds of the lake, consisting of a pile of flags heaped up so as just to raise the edge of the structure above the surface. The eggs are generally half-immersed. They are from two to four in number, and are of a chalky exterior on an under surface of bluish green; they measure, axis 1 inch $6\frac{1}{2}$ lines, diam. 1 inch 1 line.

381. *PODICEPS* — ?

A small Grebe is common on the Lake of Dueñas; but specimens have not yet been obtained. Its general appearance and habits are much the same as in the European *P. minor*, but it is smaller in size.

Fam. VII. HELIORNITHIDÆ.

382. *HELIORNIS FULICA*, Bodd.

Inhabits the Pacific coast, being found in the submerged swamps underneath the trees. The only specimen obtained was swimming in the water, near the village of Santana Mixtan.

In concluding our list, we beg to acknowledge the assistance we have received from Mr. Gould in determining the *Trochilidæ*, and from Mr. Gurney in making out the species of *Accipitres*. Although we have enumerated 382 birds as occurring in Central America, the catalogue is still in many particulars very incomplete, and we have no doubt that future researches will make great additions to it.

XXIV.—*List of a Collection of Birds from the colony of Natal in South-eastern Africa.* By J. H. GURNEY, M.P., F.Z.S.

(Plate VII.)

THE following is a list of a series of Birds of Prey, Goatsuckers, Kingfishers, Cuckoos, and Water-birds recently received by me from the colony of Natal, to which I have added the names of a few species belonging to the same groups from two other collections made in the same country.